

PUBLIC SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Overall Goal: To improve the overall quality of life for Cambridge residents by creating and coordinating Public Services.

OBJECTIVE #1:

To create or support a broad array of services and opportunities for families and youth.

Over the year, the City of Cambridge anticipates providing a wide range of services to over 1200 low and moderate-income individuals and families through a variety of public service grants. Community-based organizations such as the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House and East End House will enhance the quality of lives of 600-700 residents in Area IV and East Cambridge by providing essential community services and social/educational opportunities. Other vital community services will be provided to over 200 low-moderate income adults and families by the following organizations: Cambridge YWCA and Hildebrand will provide housing and supportive services to homeless women and families with children; and CASPAR, which will continue to support homeless adults in recovery from substance abuse and/or alcoholism in securing alternative housing. Support will also be provided to approximately 1300 low-moderate income multi-linguistic Cambridge residents through a variety of public service grants. Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers, Concilio Hispano and the Ethiopian Community Mutual Assistance Association will assist over 1000 Spanish/Portuguese/Aramaic-speaking individuals/families in gaining access to mainstream community resources.

Expected Resources:

- Community Development Block Grant:
- Local Property Taxes:

Strategies:

Through a combination of Community Development Block Grant and Property Taxes, the Department of Human Service Programs will continue to contract with local non-profit community providers who work with individuals, families and multi-linguist residents that will provide the following:

- Develop/enhance new and existing social and educational programs, based on community needs;
- Operate emergency food pantries, including delivery of food to homebound individuals
- Assist homeless women and homeless families not eligible for Emergency Assistance in finding transitional and/or permanent housing;
- Provide individual counseling, case management, housing search advocacy, and referrals to other supportive community services; and
- Provide life skills training, educational/vocational opportunities, and information on women's health issues
- Identify and assess appropriateness for participation in the program;
- Develop and implement individualized treatment plans;
- Provide ongoing case management and adjust treatment plans as needed;
- Conduct individual and group counseling sessions; and

- Identify/support participants ready to transition into a more stable sober environment, such as independent/residential housings, treatment programs and/or sober shelters.
- Assist linguistic minority families in accessing early intervention services for their infant/toddlers with disabilities and special needs.
- Provide bilingual/bicultural mental health services and support to recently immigrated Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian speaking children and families with serious psychosocial problems, intensified by cultural differences and social disadvantages.

OBJECTIVE #2:

To create or support services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities residing in Cambridge.

Number of Households to be Served:

Over the year the City of Cambridge anticipates providing support services to approximately 400 senior citizens and persons with disabilities through a variety of public service grants. Approximately 300 elders and/or persons with disabilities will access medical care via transportation provided by SCM Corporation and The Shepherd's Center – 100 of the most frail will also receive escorted services. Approximately 28 elders and persons with disabilities will avoid eviction and displacement by receiving extensive cleaning and reorganization of their homes by HouseWorks. Other services provided are as follows: nutritional shopping rides by SCM, respite program services for caregivers coordinated by The Shepherd's Center, and social/support group for Haitian Elders by the Cambridge Council On Aging.

Expected Resources:

- Community Development Block Grant:
- Local Property Taxes:

Strategies:

Through a combination of Community Development Block Grant and Property Taxes, the Department of Human Service Programs will continue to contract with local non-profit community providers who work with senior citizens to provide the following:

- Assist Elders from Haitian-descent gain access to existing community services through:
 - Weekly group meetings engaging elder in for recreational, social and educational activities;
 - Opportunities for socialization with other Haitian Elders;
 - Assistance with social service needs, access to the Senior Food Pantry and other relevant benefits; and
 - Interpretation/translation, English as a Second Language (ESL) and assistance with the citizenship/-naturalization process
- Provide a caregiver-respite program and transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities to promote access to essential community services

OBJECTIVE #3:

To offer Legal support and services to public & private housing tenants in eviction cases.

In FY 2005 the City anticipates providing legal services to up-to 70 low-moderate income families and individuals who are at risk of becoming homeless. Community Legal Services/Counseling Center will provide legal counsel/representation to public/private housing tenants in eviction cases.

Expected Resources:

- Community Development Block Grant:
- Local Property Taxes:

Strategies:

Through a combination of Community Development Block Grant and Property Taxes, the Department of Human Service Programs will continue to contract with Community Legal Services / Counseling Center who work with individuals, families and multi-linguist residents that will provide the following:

- Provide legal counsel and representation to public/private housing tenants in eviction cases; and
- Represent public and subsidized housing tenants and applicants for housing in administrative appeals.
- Community outreach and consultation to community organizations and advocates on landlord/tenant housing law issues; and
- Supervision/training of volunteer attorneys on landlord/tenant law, trial/administrative practice, and public/subsidized housing programs.

OBJECTIVE #4:

To offer age-appropriate services to disadvantaged and underserved youths.

Approximately 370 youths will have access to the following services: a summer camp for youth with emotional/behavioral difficulties, operated by Cambridge Camping and psycho-educational groups for court-involved youth, facilitated by Adolescent Consultation Services.

Expected Resources:

- Community Development Block Grant:
- Local Property Taxes:

Strategies:

Through a combination of Community Development Block Grant and Property Taxes, the Department of Human Service Programs will continue to contract with local non-profit community providers who work with individuals, families and multi-linguist residents that will provide the following:

- Coordinate a summer camp program for children with emotional and behavioral difficulties.
- Psycho-educational groups addressing critical teen issues such as: sexual behavior, substance abuse, peer pressure, anger and domestic violence;
- Peer group support;
- Individual counseling and information and referral to other supportive services; and
- Provide support and counseling to court-involved adolescents
- Provide bilingual/bicultural mental health services and support to recently immigrated Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian speaking children and families with serious psychosocial problems, intensified by cultural differences and social disadvantages.

OBJECTIVE #5:

To create or support domestic violence and abuse prevention and treatment for adults and youth.

Number of Households to be Served:

Over the year, the City of Cambridge anticipates providing domestic violence-related assistance to over 250 adults/youths residing in Cambridge. These services will be provided through a variety of public service grants by community agencies as follows: about 100 Cambridge residents facing battering and abuse will receive legal counsel/representation and counseling services from Cambridge/Somerville Legal Services and Community Legal Services/Counseling Center; the Women's Educational Center anticipates serving between 75-85 low-moderate income Cambridge women by providing support groups, educational workshops and safe daytime space/support to homeless women; and Dating Violence Intervention/Prevention staff (a program of Transition House) will reach out to 75-85 youths at the high and middle schools and provide education and counseling on issues related to dating violence.

Expected Resources:

- Community Development Block Grant:
- Local Property Taxes:

Strategies:

Through a combination of Community Development Block Grant and Property Taxes, the Department of Human Service Programs will continue to contract with local non-profit community providers to provide the creation or support of domestic violence and abuse prevention and treatment for adults and youth that will provide the following:

- Legal counsel and representation in court in cases involving divorce, restraining orders, child support, child custody, visitation rights;
- Individual/group counseling to address psychological symptoms associated with domestic violence, such as depression/anxiety/stress; and
- Supervision/training of volunteer attorneys working with victims of domestic violence
- Support groups focusing on domestic violence and stress reduction;
- Safe daytime space and support to homeless women.
- Educate and counsel youth about the issues of dating violence.

OBJECTIVE #6:

To provide after-school and year-round employment programs; including life skills and academic support to youths and young adults.

In FY 2005 approximately 240 low-moderate income youths and young adults will utilize a after-school/life skills training program for youth in public housing, coordinated by Cambridge Housing Authority; and job development and employment programs coordinated by Just-A-Start Corporation, targeting disadvantaged high school students and out-of-school youth.

Expected Resources:

- Community Development Block Grant:
- Local Property Taxes:

Strategies:

Through a combination of Community Development Block Grant and Property Taxes, the Department of Human Service Programs will continue to contract with local non-profit community providers who work with individuals, families and multi-linguist residents that will provide the following:

- After-school classroom-based instruction in job readiness and life skills;
- Career awareness; job readiness/development; job search training; job placements, in private/public sectors; job performance monitoring; and on-the-job-mentorship;
- On-site skills training in construction, housing rehabilitation and energy conservation;
- Case management, counseling, and individual service plans;
- Academic support; high school equivalency/diploma and college preparation; and
- Summer literacy camp.
- Conduct outreach to the community, and to the local private industry in supporting employment services to youth in Cambridge.

OBJECTIVE #7:

To assist in providing a wide array of child-care services that benefit the children, the parents and the providers.

In FY 2005 the Child Care Resource Center will conduct a career development program to expand information on career opportunities available within the child-care field to 25 income eligible individuals.

The Guidance Center will provide the following services to over 60 Cambridge residents: bilingual/bicultural early intervention services to families with infants, and bilingual/bicultural mental health services to individuals, families and children.

Scholarships administered by Child Care Resource Center for school-age programs and summer camps will be given to 50 income eligible children..

Expected Resources:

- Community Development Block Grant:
- Local Property Taxes:

Strategies:

Through a combination of Community Development Block Grant and Property Taxes, the Department of Human Service Programs will continue to contract with local non-profit community providers who work with individuals, families and multi-linguist residents that will provide the following:

- Scholarships for school-age programs; and
- Summer day camp for children with emotional and behavioral special needs.
- Conduct ongoing community outreach to inform of availability of services; and
- Conduct individual counseling sessions on career development/opportunities within the child care field;
- Information and referral;
- Ongoing technical assistance; and
- Access to child care career building materials and services.
- Conduct outreach to inform community of availability of services; and
- Develop child care career building materials and services.
- Comprehensive developmental assessment and specialized therapeutic intervention provided largely by staff who speak the native language of the family;
- Case management and individual family service planning;
- Weekly home visits; and
- Access to related community services such as: parent-child groups at community sites and transportation, and
- The hiring, training and supervision of bilingual/bicultural Early Intervention Specialists.